



# DFIRS NEWS

## Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

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### Report from the National Fire Academy

Delaware has made tremendous strides with the implementation of NFIRS 5.0 in relation to other states. Currently, 38% of the state's fire departments are active electronic participants. This level of participation places the state well ahead previously published goals - 50% participation by June 2002 and the remaining 50% participation by December 31, 2002.

While attending the National Fire Academy it became very apparent, if any state can obtain 100% participation the great State of Delaware can.

### Shifting gears & shifting focus

Now that so many departments are participating in DFIRS, partial focus of this newsletter will shift to addressing specific questions of participating departments. A commonly asked question is, "**What constitutes an exposure?**"

#### Definition:

A fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. For example, if the building fire ignites a truck parked outside, the truck fire is an exposure fire.

#### Purpose:

While the incident number permits data from all properties involved in a fire incident to be related together, the exposure number identifies each separate property type involved in the fire. This makes it possible to capture the specific details of the fire in each exposure and to relate all the exposures to the basic incident, if necessary.

When a fire involves more than one building, each building fire should be considered a separate fire, with the ignition for all but the original building fire

Another frequently asked question is, "**What exactly does Incident Type mean?**"

#### Definition:

This is the actual situation that emergency personnel found on the scene when they arrived. **The incident type reported here is not always the same as the incident type initially dispatched.**

#### Helpful tips:

For vehicle fires in a structure, use the mobile property fire codes (130-138) unless the structure became involved.

For fires in buildings that are confined to non-combustible containers, use codes 113-118 of the structure fire codes when there is no flame damage beyond the non-combustible container. For example, fire in food on the stove that was confined to the pot is code (113).

### DFIRS Survey Form

As stated in previous newsletters, a DFIRS Fire Department Assessment Form was mailed to each department Chief last October. This form is the first step in obtaining department information relating to incident reporting. Without this information the proper assistance cannot be provided to the local fire departments.

The following departments have not completed and returned the DFIRS Fire Department Assessment Form:

- ✍ Belvedere Fire Co
- ✍ Gumboro Volunteer Fire Co
- ✍ Memorial Fire Co Inc
- ✍ Talleyville Fire Co

If your department name is listed please complete and return the Assessment Form. If your form has been misplaced a new form can be obtained by contacting Crystal Beach at (302) 739-5665 or via the Internet at: <http://www.delawarestatefiremarshal.com/dfirsinfo.htm>

## **USFA UPDATE:**

### **USFA is Working on Details for Larger FY02 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**

Funding for the FY02 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has now been increased to a total of \$360 million. "Given the \$3 billion in requests demonstrated by local fire departments in last year's program, FEMA and the United States Fire Administration are more committed than ever to proceed with this very necessary assistance to local fire departments who as first responders, play such a critical role in America," said R. David Paulison, United States Fire Administrator. "We are diligently planning the approach for the FY 02 program."

Even though final details are still being determined and will be announced in the next several weeks, it is already known that the application process will primarily be Internet based. While paper applications will continue to be accepted from those fire departments without Internet access, use of the Internet is highly recommended because of the guidance that is built into that electronic processing system. Also, applicants who utilize the "e-application" process will receive an automatic electronic confirmation that their application has been received once it is submitted.

Eligible activities continued from last year will be Firefighting Equipment, PPE, Training, Fire Prevention, Fitness/Wellness, and Vehicles. In addition, fire-based EMS will be added as an eligible project this year.

Although fire departments will be limited to submitting only one application this year, a new programmatic approach will allow applicants to request funding to address various complimentary and combinations of activities in one of the four distinct functional program areas. Those areas are Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Programs, Fire Prevention Programs, Emergency Medical Services Programs and a Firefighting Vehicles Program.

"Given the likelihood that the application process will open in early March, fire departments are encouraged to start gathering preliminary information for their application now," said Paulison. The best way to keep apprised of upcoming announcements about the FY02 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is to enter your e-mail address at the "E-Mail List" link found at the top of the Fire Administration's web page at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov). By doing so, you can be assured of receiving automatic e-mail notification of all new announcements, regarding application period, eligible activities, and other details of the FY02 Program.

## **Congratulations!**

**The following departments are active electronic DFIRS participants:**

1. Indian River Volunteer Fire Co
2. Lewes Fire Department Inc
3. Bethany Beach Fire Co
4. Little Creek Volunteer Fire Co
5. Elsmere Fire Co #1 Inc
6. Citizen's Hose Co #1 Inc
7. Volunteer Hose Co
8. Dover Robbins Hose Co #1 Inc
- 9. Cheswold Volunteer Fire Co**
- 10. Carlisle Fire Co Inc**
- 11. Dagsboro Fire Co**
- 12. Frankford Volunteer Fire Co**
- 13. Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co**
- 14. Seaford Volunteer Fire Dept Inc**
- 15. Roxana Volunteer Fire Co**
- 16. Farmington Fire Co**
- 17. Clayton Fire Co #1 Inc**
- 18. Felton Community Fire Co**
- 19. Wilmington Fire Dept**
- 20. Greenwood Volunteer Fire Co**
- 21. Camden-Wyoming Fire Co Inc**
- 22. Magnolia Volunteer Fire Co Inc**
- 23. Bowers Fire Co**

**Departments in bold indicate participation since last published newsletter.**

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*For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or [cbeach@state.de.us](mailto:cbeach@state.de.us)*

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**PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS**